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CHINESE WATER CONSERVATION, FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS; PREPARATIONS FOR HYDROELECTRIC PLANT CONSTRUCTION

/Summary: The Tu-liu-chien Ho Engineering Project in Hopeh has been completed. This project is intended to eliminate the flood threat of the Ta-ch'ing Ho and Tzu-ya Ho to Tientsin and the Chin-p'u Railway.

Plans have been completed for the construction of a hydroelectric plant at the Fou-tzu-ling Reservoir in Anhwei. The plant is scheduled to be in operation by the end of 1954. The San Ho lock on the Huai Ho has been completed and put into operation.

Antiflood work in North China has been successful, but achievements are regarded as only steps in a long-range program.

Western Suiyuan has had good results in its anti-drought work. Irrigation methods have been greatly improved.

Drought control and methods of water conservation are being emphasized in Hunan Province.

The rise in the water level of the Yellow River has caused warnings to be issued to authorities along lower reaches of the river./

TU-LIU-CHIEN HO PROJECT IN HOPEH COMPLETED -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 5 Aug 53

Pao-ting, 2 August 1953, (Hsin-hua) -- The Tu-liu-chien Ho Engineering Project has been the hope of millions of people in the Tientsin and lower Ta-ch'ing Ho regions. Many mountain streams flow into the Ta-ch'ing Ho, Yung-ting Ho, Tzu-ya Ho, Pei-yun Ho, and the Nan-yun Ho, and at times of heavy rains, these rivers cannot contain the extra flow of water. Of the five rivers, the

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Ta-ch'ing Ho has caused the most damage; since 1911, it has been the cause of five disastrous floods. In 1917 and 1939, the flood waters rose to a height of 3 meters in Tientsin. The 1939 flood resulted in losses amounting to 2,160,000,000,000 yuan. Some 4,400 square kilometers of the lowlands southwest of Tientsin were inundated, and more than 121,200 dwellings were destroyed.

In 1951, the Central People's Government decided to control the Ta-ch'ing Ho by constructing reservoirs in its upper reaches, diverting its flow in the central areas, and dredging the lower reaches of the Tu-liu-chien Ho. Beginning from the juncture of the Ta-ch'ing Ho and the Tzu-ya Ho at village No 6, and bearing east across the Nan-yun Ho and the Chin-p'u Railway to the Wan-chia wharf and Ma-ch'ang-chien Ho, a 43-kilometer man-made channel -- the Tu-liu-chien Ho -- was completed. At the entrance to the Tu-liu-chien Ho, a reinforced-concrete inlet lock 130 meters long and 4.5 meters high was constructed. This is the control mechanism in diverting the flood waters to the sea. With the Tu-liu-chien Ho and the Hai Ho both draining off the flood waters of five rivers, the problem of diverting the flood waters of the Ta-ch'ing Ho and the Tzu-ya Ho to the sea has been fundamentally solved.

Because the Tu-liu-chien Ho flows from west to east, intersecting the south-to-north flow of the Nan-yun Ho, a new channel west of Tu-liu has been opened and a control lock and boat lock constructed. The Nan-yun Ho can thus flow through the new channel and join with the Tzu-ya Ho. To continue the boat traffic of the lower Nan-yun Ho and to maintain the sources of irrigation and drinking water, a second new channel was opened from the Tzu-ya Ho back to the Nan-yun Ho, and a lock installed on the Tzu-ya Ho north of Tu-liu near village No 11.

Work on the Tu-liu-chien Ho Engineering Project began on 5 March 1951, and a labor force of 200,000 expended a total of 21,730,000 mandays in its construction. The over-all engineering work included excavation of the Tu-liu-chien Ho, diversion of the Nan-yun Ho, and the construction of a 130-meter-long inlet and boat lock, control lock, culverts, and bridges. Excavation work amounted to 15 million cubic meters of earth. The project was completed at the end of July, and now the overflow flood waters of the Ta-ch'ing Ho and the Tzu-ya Ho can flow to the sea through the newly opened Tu-liu-chien Ho. Moveover, the area flooded by the lower Ta-ch'ing Ho will now be restricted to the regions north of the Ch'ien-li dike and west of the Tzu-ya Ho. The high-water period of inundated areas will also be shortened, permitting the planting of winter wheat. It is hoped that the Tu-liu-chien project will eliminate the flood threat to Tientsin and the Chin-p'u Railway and will also reduce flood damage in the lower reaches of the Ta-ch'ing Ho.

PREPARATIONS FOR FOU-TZU-LING HYDROELECTRIC PLANT -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 27 May 53

Peng-fou, 26 May 1953 (Chung-kuo Hsin-wen She) -- Plans have been completed and materials are being assembled for a three-story turbine-driven hydroelectric plant to be constructed at the Fou-tzu-ling Reservoir on the P'i Ho in Anhwei Province. /This reservoir is one of the installations in the Huai Ho Control Program./ The plant will be ready for operation by the end of 1954. It will supply power to manufacturing and mining enterprises in Northern Anhwei. There will eventually be a hookup of power produced here with that to be produced at the Mei-shan Reservoir on the Shih He in Anhwei. It is estimated that power can be supplied for a distance of 175 kilometers from the plant for 620 yuan per kilowatt.

The turbines, generators, and penstocks for this project will all be of Chinese manufacture. The penstock pipes are already being delivered at the site.

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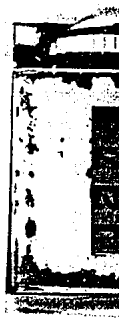

SAN HO LOCK COMPLETED ON LOWER REACHES OF HUAI HO -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Aug 53

The San Ho lock located on the southeast shore of the Hung-tse Hu in the lower reaches of the Huai Ho has been completed. Opening ceremonies on 26 July were conducted by the project director, Ch'en K'o-t'ien. The electrically operated lock was put into operation by Leng Yu-chu, vice-chairman of the Kiangsu Provincial People's Government.

WARN AGAINST COMPLACENCY IN ANTIFLOOD WORK -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Aug 53

Antiflood and river control work in North China has been very successful in the past 3 years. For the spring 1953 antiflood activity in Hopeh, 12 special administrative districts and 52 hsiens mobilized a labor force of 130,000 which excavated 13,370,000 cubic meters of earth and repaired and built structures in 221 places. In western Suiyuan at the Yellow River dike area, over 770,000 cubic meters of earth mounds and embankments have been built in the last 3 years. At Kuan-t'ing Reservoir or the Yung-ting Ho, the 35-meter-high dam has been completed on schedule and will be in operation during the 1953 summer high-water period. Also, all river systems have established warning stations and other coordinated activities.

However, it must be clearly recognized that the achievements of the present are only preliminary steps in a long-range program. To ensure food production in 1953, and to protect the welfare of the people, attention must be given to the following points:

1. The potential effectiveness of dikes is still far less than the potential force of the flood waters. For example, although much additional work has been done on the Yellow River dikes in western Suiyuan, the dikes are still far from having the necessary resistance for effective control of the potential force of the floods. In Hopeh, the area flooded in 1950 was 50 percent less than that flooded in 1949, and the existing dikes proved sufficient. But in the last 2 or 3 years the waters have not reached flood proportions and the dikes have not yet been truly tested. Consequently, it is necessary that preparations be made to strengthen the present dikes.

2. Various problems have been created by newly build projects. In 1953, the dam at the Kuan-t'ing Reservoir will be in use, controlling the flow of water above Kuan-t'ing and definitely reducing the threat to the lower reaches of the Yung-ting Ho. There is a rainfall collection basin of 1,700 square kilometers in the narrows between Kuan-t'ing and San-chia-tien. In the past, during heavy rains and mountain floods, whenever this body of water has passed the safe water level at the Lu-k'ou bridge, disastrous floods have resulted. But now, with the completion of the Kuan-t'ing dam, people think that floods are not possible and may become lax and complacent about antiflood activities. To protect large cities and also the Peiping-Shan-hai-kuan Railway from floods, ample preparations for flood diversion of the Hsiao-ch'ing Ho must be made. With the completion of the Kuan-t'ing project the streams will be running only half full. Under these circumstances erosion of dike bases is heaviest and must be watched. The main purpose of the work on the Tu-liu-chien Ho is to protect Tientsin and to speed up the shallow water of the lower reaches. However, the river course of the Ta-ch'ing Ho narrows as it goes downstream, and the current flow is restricted, causing breaching of the dikes in the central reaches. Measures must be taken to solve this problem and also to carry out flood diversion work at Hsin-kai-fang and Lan-kou-wa.

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3. The tributaries of all the rivers are in mountainous regions, and in time of heavy rains the waters are very turbulent with possibilities of great damage. This fact must be publicized in all hsiens of the mountain areas, and where conditions permit the masses must be stimulated to draw off this water for irrigation and thus divert floods also.

4. The lowlands have always received the greatest damage from floods. According to 1949 - 1950 statistics, resulting from rainfall on improperly drained areas were the cause of 60 to 70 percent of the total flood damage, about twice that from dike breaks. Efforts must be made to organize the masses in the lowlands to carry out drainage activities.

GOOD RESULTS IN WESTERN SUIYUAN ANTIDROUGHT ACTIVITIES -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 5 Aug 53

The water level of the Yellow River has been declining in western Suiyuan since spring cultivation, and this created a problem in the irrigation of more than 4 million mou of land. Beginning in May, efforts were made to solve this problem. Cadres were sent into rural areas to persuade the farmers to plant /in spite of the drought/, to expand water sources, to control the use of water, and to hoe the fields. All of these were successfully accomplished.

Before the start of the antidrought activities, approximately 30 percent of the arable land in western Suiyuan was not cultivated because it was dry, not having been irrigated in the fall of 1952. The farmers thought there was no way of using this land, but after the application of various methods such as hand sowing in plow-opened furrows, carrying water for irrigation, seed soaking, etc., 70 percent of the dry land was cultivated by 20 June 1953.

The water level was low in five of western Suiyuan's eight main canals, but the water levels were raised by various methods, and by the end of June all of the canals had sufficient water. During antidrought work, over 40 types of repair projects were completed by a labor force of 200,000. Outlets were opened from branch canals or water was borrowed from full canals, and this expanded the irrigated area two to three times.

In the past, farmers used deep, scattered irrigation. At a rate of flow of one cubic meter of water per second, only 300 mou of land could be irrigated in a 24-hour period. The highest rate was only 537 mou. Since spring planting, shallow irrigation in rapid rotation has been carried out, irrigation experts have organized watering teams, and many areas have been able to irrigate 700 mou in a 24-hour period. The Sha-hao Canal in Lin-ho Hsien irrigated 831 mou in the same amount of time.

In many areas, wheat fields were hoed only once, and other fields not at all. The farmers were taught that hoeing protects the young shoots, and now the wheat fields have been hoed twice and the other fields at least once.

DROUGHT CONTROL STRESSED IN HUNAN PROVINCE -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 5 Aug 53

Since the end of heavy rains in May, all levels of Hunan's party and government leadership have been emphasizing antidrought activities. Dikes have been repaired and systems of water usage set up. Since the end of June, rain has been very scarce in Hunan and antidrought measures must be considered the prime duty. The following steps should be taken: the organization of emergency mutual aid teams for water pumping; the solution of labor and equipment problems; the promotion of mutual aid and cooperation; the search for new sources of water; and the

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instruction of the masses in proper irrigation methods. By mid-July the relatively dry areas were: Yu Hsien, Li-ling, Ning-yuan, Ku-chang, and Hsin-shao /not found in available gazetteers/ hsiens, Ch'a-ling Hsien in Hsiang-t'an Special Administrative District, Wu-kang Hsien in Shao-yang Special Administrative District, and Pao-ching Hsien in Shao-yang and Hsiang-hsi Miao Autonomous Region. A small portion of shoots withered in the driest areas. Rains have now begun again in Hunan, and with the exception of Shao-yang and Ling-ling hsiens, which received only a light rainfall, all other areas are busy taking measures to store the rain water in order to ensure an abundant harvest.

YELLOW RIVER CONTINUES TO RISE -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 4 Aug 53

K'ai-feng, 3 August 1953 (Hsin-hua) -- In the past few days, there has been continuous rain in the areas around the central reaches of the Yellow River. In the regions south of Shan Hsien in Honan, the water mark is approaching the 1949 high water level. The Yellow River Antiflood Bureau has already issued warnings to all flood control units along the lower reaches of the river, urging them to make necessary preparations to prevent flood disaster.

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